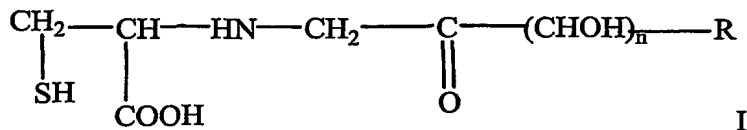


## CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula I:



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in which R is hydrogen when n=1-4, or methyl when n=0-3.

2. A method of preparing a compound according to claim 1, comprising the reaction of cysteine with a sugar in either aqueous solution or in a mixture of water and water-miscible solvents.
3. A method according to claim 2, in which the reaction is accelerated by heating, preferably to between 60° and 110°C.
4. A method according to claim 2, in which the reaction is carried out in the presence of a buffer having a pH of from 1-9, preferably of from 2-6.
5. A method of conferring a meaty flavour or aroma on a foodstuff, comprising the addition to the foodstuff before heating of a compound according to claim 1.
6. Use of a compound according to claim 1 to confer on a foodstuff a meaty flavour or aroma.

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